THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The eligibility criteria for telecom companies to participate in the 3G auction is:

Any entity (i) that holds a UAS/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service ("CMTS") licence, or (ii) that has previous experience of running 3G telecom services either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary and gives an undertaking to obtain a UAS licence through a New Entrant Nominee UAS Licenses as per the DoT guidelines before starting telecom operations can bid for 3G Spectrum.

The 3G spectrum would be awarded only to the successful bidders for providing 3G service.

(c) and (d) The roaming policy is applicable to the licenses and not to specific spectrum bands. At present mandatory roaming is not part of the Government's telecom policy. Roaming arrangements are based on bilateral decision between operators.

Empowered Group of Ministers on 3G Spectrum

2326. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGM) on the 3G Spectrum has failed to resolve difference between the defence and the telecom Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether auction of 3G for GSM players has been postponed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to allot 3G spectrum in a transparent way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in its second meeting held on 27.08.2009, among others, has decided that 4 blocks of 2+5 MHz of spectrum in 2.1 GHz band (excluding one block already allotted to BSNL/MTNL) should be auctioned in telecom circles where 20 MHz or more spectrum is available. In all other telecom circles, where less than 20 MHz spectrum is available in 2.1 GHz band, the number of available 5 MHz blocks should be auctioned (excluding one block already allotted to BSNL/MTNL)" and MoD has been requested to release the spectrum in anticipation of the completion of the triggers.

(c) and (d) As per the information memorandum (IM) issued on 23/10/2009, various aspects associated with the 3G auction has been indicated.

Audit of service and standards of cellular operators

2327. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI monitors and audits the service quality standards of the cellular operators;

(b) if so, whether it is also required of the TRAI to publish these reports;

(c) if so, the date-wise details of last three years where such reports have been published; and

(d) whether such reports are also laid in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) undertakes Audit and Objective Assessment of Quality of Service Provided by Cellular Mobile Service Providers through Independent Agencies. Through TRAI is not mandated under TRAI Act to publish the report given by Cellular Mobile Service Providers, TRAI publishes these reports in its website and also through Press Releases for information of general public/stakeholders.

(c) The date-wise details of published reports of Independent Agencies for last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Such reports are not laid in Parliament.

Statement

Sl.No.	Date of Publication in TRAI website ***www.trai.gov.in***
1	2
1.	7th September 2006
2.	13th November 2006
3.	24th January 2007
4.	20th April 2007
5.	16th December 2008
6.	17th December 2008
7.	18th December 2008
8.	19th December 2008
9.	22nd December 2008
10.	23rd December 2008
11.	24th December 2008
12.	26th December 2008
13.	12th May 2009

1	2
14.	13th May 2009
15.	14th May 2009
16.	15th May 2009
17.	18th May 2009
18.	19th May 2009
19.	20th May 2009
20.	21st May 2009
21.	22 May 2009
22.	25th May 2009
23.	26th May 2009

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

2328. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages yet to be covered by this yojana, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the yojana is not giving desired result in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to make the yojana successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) are opened only in villages with Panchayats. At present, there are 4962 PSSKs in the country (as on 31.3.2009). State/Circle-wise details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Many of the villages are covered by either the Branch Post Offices (Bos) or where Bos do not justify by the PSSKs. PSSKs are opened only on initiation of proposals by duly elected Gram Panchayats subject further to fulfilment of stipulated norms. No new PSSKs have been opened during last six years due to non-receipt of justified proposals and non-fulfilment of norms.

(c) The scheme was aimed at augmenting postal network in rural areas. But most PSSKs have been found to be financially non-viable and have not shown desired results after their establishment.

(d) Alternate modes of communication are now available. Therefore, there is fall in demand for postage stamps/stationery and sale proceeds of most PSSKs are low. Further,